

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please rewrite the abstract as follows:

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--Test articles comprise a solid phase membrane having dry thromboplastin immobilized thereon or within. The thromboplastin is substantially free from substances which might cause aberrant functioning intermediate transition states as the thromboplastin is rehydrated with liquid sample. Coagulation neutral agents which facilitate rehydration of the dry thromboplastin are also provided on the solid phase membrane.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were examined. All claims were rejected on formal and/or substantive grounds. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 12 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, and 10 have been cancelled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Gitomer for the courteous interview on December 14, 1994. The above amendments to the claims reflect certain changes suggested by the Examiner at the interview, including substitution of "albumins" for "proteins" in claims 4, 8, and 12. Also, claim 5 has been amended to clarify the nature of the coagulation pathway and the manner in which signal is produced on the indicator fuse of the membrane.

1. FORMAL MATTERS

The Examiner raised certain questions with regard to the specification, abstract, title, and PTO-1449 on pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action. These matters have been addressed as follows.

The reference to compending applications on page 5 of the application has been updated. Reference to Serial No. 07/874,667 has been replaced by reference to currently pending application 08/196,816. As this application has now been allowed, and the issue fee paid, Applicants expect to be able to substitute the issued patent no. prior to allowance of the present application. Reference to application Serial No. 08/003,791, should have been to 08/003,771. As this application

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